

NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MONTHLY UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2004

PROGRESS MADE BY THE INSTITUTE STAFF AND PARTNERS THIS MONTH:

- NCKRI and Director Louise Hose (LH) were featured in a column in *ParkScience*, the resource management bulletin of the National Park Service (www.nature.nps.gov/parksci).
- Lewis Land (LL) gave a presentation to the Albuquerque Geological Society: *Karst Hydrology and Geomorphology of the Lower Pecos Valley, Southeastern New Mexico*.
- LL met with board of directors of Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District to discuss investigation of variations in hydraulic head of the San Andres Limestone aquifer in the Roswell Artesian Basin. The karstic San Andres Aquifer displays strong evidence of non-Darcian conduit flow, and is a major source of water for irrigation and municipal water supply in southeastern New Mexico.
- LL began collecting hydraulic head data in Roswell Artesian Basin.
- LH met with State Representative John Heaton and Mayor Bob Forrest concerning the funding for the NCKRI building.
- The December issue of *Geotimes* featured an article on a subterranean acid-mine drainage ecosystem reviewed by LH and other scientists recommended by the Institute.
- NCKRI was selected as a featured NPS partnership case study at the NPS website, <http://www.nps.gov/partnerships/index.htm>. We provided photographs to enhance the presentation of our story.
- LH wrapped up her responsibilities for editing the National Speleological Society's *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*, providing files and other information and support to the new editor, Dr. Malcolm Field of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- All of the NCKRI staff worked on finalizing the 2003 NCKRI Annual Report. The Report was under-review by all three primary partners at the close of January.
- Roger Scott (RS) investigated potential lay-out artists for the Annual Report.
- RS and LH worked on site evaluations for Carlsbad and Ruidoso, New Mexico, in anticipation of a National Speleological Society bid to host the 2009 International Congress of Speleology in the United States. George Veni and John Moses are spearheading the national effort. In the process, the NCKRI staff discussed the project with staff at the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, Washington Ranch near Carlsbad, the Ruidoso Convention Center, and Black River Village Camp near Carlsbad. We also visited many potential venues in and near Carlsbad.
- LH also met with Superintendent Mary Scott of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad Field Manager Leslie Theiss of the Bureau of Land Management, and District Ranger Jamie Kingsbury of Lincoln National Forest to discuss the potential impacts and their concerns or interest in holding an International Congress of Speleology in the United States in 2009.

- LH met with Jim Goodbar and Peg Sorensen, both of the Bureau of Land Management, to discuss potential inter-agency efforts to promote the State of New Mexico as a world leader in cave and karst related activities.
- LH discussed possible partnership options between NCKRI and the National Speleological Society (NSS) in the publication of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* with NSS Executive Vice President Don Paquette and others. Eddie Kassman at NPS-Geologic Resources Division began preparation of a potential Cooperative Agreement.
- The Geological Society of America announced that it accepted a proposal from the National Cave and Karst Research Institute and the National Park Service for a Topical Session at its national meeting in November 2004 in Denver. Penelope Boston and LH will serve as co-conveners for *From Subterranean Crawlways to Scientific Hallways: Research on Our Public Cave and Karst Lands*.
- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson promised a delegation from Carlsbad led by Mayor Bob Forrest that the State will provide an additional \$400,000 for completing the urban renewal project at the site of the Institute's planned headquarters.
- The Institute again provided information to David Brooks on Senator Jeff Bingaman's staff concerning federal matching fund legislation and interpretation.
- Architects Beryl Durham and Associates and Studio D met with Institute and City of Carlsbad staff to review revised concept building plans and provided information on the ground-source heat pump system they propose to use.
- LH resumed writing a draft business plan for the Institute.
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology scheduled interviews with finalists for the Chief Scientist position at the Institute.

PLANS: Anticipated activities for the near future include:

- The architects will begin drafting blueprint plans for the headquarters. The current, revised concept plans should be available in early February at: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri/news.htm>. The City and Institute Director will continue regular meetings with the building design firm.
- The Institute hopes to complete writing a draft business/operations plan in February. This plan will include a proposal for how the Institute will be jointly administered and how the transition might be accomplished.
- The Institute staff plans to have the 2003 annual report ready and awaiting printing before the end of February.
- Institute staff will continue site evaluations of Carlsbad, Ruidoso, and Albuquerque by mid-February and submit the results along with other pertinent material to the National Speleological Society's International Congress of Speleology 2009 Bid Committee.
- We anticipate continuing discussion with the National Speleological Society concerning a potential partnership arrangement supporting the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*.
- New Mexico Tech will interview the finalists for the Chief Scientists position and hopes to make an offer in February.

NCKRI STAFF:

LH – Louise Hose, National Park Service

RS – Roger Scott, National Park Service

LL – Lewis Land, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR)

PB – Penelope Boston, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology